

LISTING OF THE PRESENT CLAIMS

Claims 1-9 (Cancelled).

Claim 10 (Currently amended). A device for minimizing cigarette sidestream smoke and reducing free-burn rate of a burning cigarette, said device comprising:

i) a non-combustible tubular element having a proximal tip end and an open distal end encasing an effective length of a tobacco charge of a cigarette located in said tubular element; and

ii) said tubular element comprising ceramic material having a predetermined number of pores and predetermined pore sizes for minimizing sidestream smoke emission from a burning tobacco charge and restricting inward flow of air to reduce free-burn rate of such burning tobacco charge to increase number of puffs from said burning tobacco charge.

Claim 11 (Currently amended). A device for minimizing cigarette sidestream smoke and reducing free-burn rate of a burning cigarette, said device comprising:

i) a non-combustible tubular element having a proximal tip end and an open distal end encasing an effective length of a tobacco charge of a cigarette located in said tubular element; and

ii) said tubular element consisting essentially of porous ceramic material for both minimizing sidestream smoke emission from a burning tobacco charge and reducing free-burn rate of such burning tobacco charge to increase number of puffs from said burning tobacco charge.